

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-24 are pending in the Application.

Claims 19-24 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 12-17 stand rejected.

Claims 2-4 and 11 have been objected to.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Thomas et al.* Since claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable language from claim 2, these rejections are moot.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Thomas* in view of *Vella* or *Farley et al.*

Since these claims have been placed in allowable form by the amendments to claim 1, these rejections are moot.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Thomas*. Since claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 2, the rejection of claim 13 is moot.

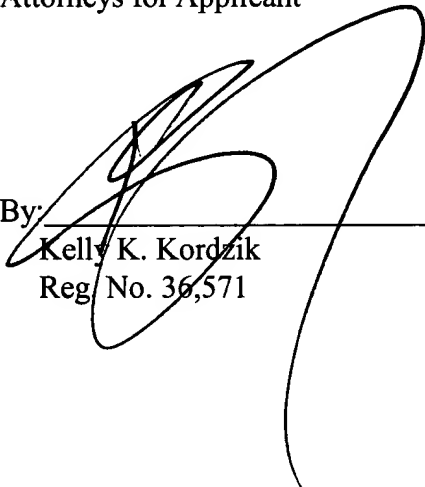
III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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